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SOVIET BASHKIRIA DEVELOPS MODERN INDUSTRIES

Sabir Akhmedyanovich Vagapov

Its workers, ingenious and industrious, quickly developed all the branches of the republic's economy. In 1934, Stalin first posed the problem of exploiting the Bashkir oil fields, and thereafter the country quickly became one of the oil-production centers of the USSR. The "Tuymazanef't" Oil Trust and the Ufa Oil Plant have been awarded the Order of Lenin for their successes.

Lumbering has become one of the country's important industries. In 1948, Bashkiria supplied construction works with tens of thousands of cubic meters of wood. This year, Bashkiria plans to give the state twice as much lumber as last year.

Many other industries are now flourishing in Bashkiria. The republic now supplies the country with products of its textile, clothing, leather, shoes, machine tools, plywood, china, window glass, and automotive industries.

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The country has changed much geographically. New, modern cities like Chernikovska and Ishimbai have grown up in the wake of the rising industries. This was largely due to the wartime transfer into Bashkiria of industries from the West.

The life of the peasantry has changed and is a far cry from the former primitive nomadic way of living. The republic now has 43 sovkhozes and 4,374 kolkhozes.

Formerly, Bashkiria did not have its own system of writing, and had a literacy rate of 5-6 percent. Now, there are 5,200 schools, 49 technical schools, and eight higher educational institutions. In all the schools children are taught in their own language. Hundreds of specialists graduate yearly from the middle and higher schools. National literature has developed and Russian classics have been translated into the native tongue.

The republic has 13 theatres which perform the Russian classics and Soviet plays. In the city of Ufa, there is a Russian dramatic theatre, the Bashkir Academic Theatre, and theatre for opera and ballet.

Bashkiria has developed its own intelligentsia and has already produced noted writers, artists, scientists, architects, and engineers.

The Bashkir nation is industrious. In 1948 it exceeded the plan in all its basic industries. The republic gave the state about 150,000,000 rubles in above-plan accumulation.

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